

**LATIN BUILDERS ASSOCIATION, INC.**

Chairman Julius Genachowski
Commissioner Meredith Attwell Baker
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn
Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Commissioner Robert M. McDowell

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554
Re: GN Docket No. 09-191

December 21st, 2009

Dear Chairman Genachowski and Commissioners:

As President of the Latin Builder's Association, I am proud to represent the largest Hispanic construction association in the United States, with over 650 member companies. Our members include builders, developers, contractors, architects, engineers and electricians, and they represent every aspect of South Florida's vibrant construction industry. Throughout our 36-year history, the Latin Builder's Association has committed to engaging in local, state and federal issues that affect our community, our industry and our organization.

Access to broadband technology is an issue that affects our members and our community. Our members help build the foundations of our communities, and as such, we committed to ensuring individuals in our neighborhoods and cities have every resource at their disposal, including broadband. Hispanics are the largest minority group in the United States, but have historically lagged behind other populations in broadband adoption. However, this trend has decreased in recent years. As of 2009, 68% of English-speaking Hispanics have a broadband connection in the home according to the Pew Center. More importantly, Hispanics are leading in the use of mobile broadband. While these achievements represent a significant step in bridging the digital divide, there is still much work to be done before all Americans have access to broadband.

With this in mind, we wanted to voice our concern regarding certain aspects of the Commission's Open Internet NPRM. While we acknowledge the Commission's efforts in crafting a National Broadband Plan, we worry that imposing net neutrality regulations would create an environment of uncertainty. As a business owner, I recognize that companies must have flexibility in their business practices so they can recoup expenses and invest in the business. If there is less incentive for network providers to invest in broadband expansion, it will be detrimental to our nation, and especially harmful to our minority communities.

Broadband technology offers communities innumerable benefits including: increased access to healthcare tools, expanded educational opportunities, and skill-training programs for the unemployed. Why risk negating the positive impacts of the National Broadband Plan on areas like education, healthcare and public safety, by imposing uncertainty through net neutrality regulations?

On behalf of myself and the Latin Builder's Association, I urge the Commission to focus on the implementation of the National Broadband Plan before applying rules that could detract from the Plan's intended goal. By ensuring all communities have access to broadband, we will establish a strong foundation for future American innovation and our communities' success.

Sincerely,

Noelia E. Moreno

President, Executive Board

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